

Fire Investigator Course

Evidence Collections Exercise

Purpose - The purpose of this exercise is for the individual to have knowledge and understanding of how to properly collect and document evidence.

Exercise setup – Exercise should be performed in a designated area or room. Items to be collected shall be spread in this area or room for collection. Items needed for the exercise include assortment of containers, clear tape, markers, tongs or tool for picking up items, scoop or shovels, camera, sketch paper, notepaper, forms.

Student: The students shall identify, collect, and document evidence for collection and Laboratory Testing. The student shall document collected evidence in a chronological order from identification through the Chain of Custody. This includes but is not limited to Photos, sketches, and evidence log locations. A minimum of two items shall be collected using proper containers with appropriate tools. (NFPA 921 16.6)

Example of items to be collected:

1. At least four pieces of glass, broken from a glass container or window
2. Piece of clothing with ignitable liquid present
3. At least three pieces of charred wood
4. Some type of igniters such as a match or lighter

Evaluator- Evaluator shall collect the students' work following the exercise. The Students' materials should include no less than two appropriate evidence containers properly sealed, evidence log, evidence sketch, lab test request, and chain of custody record.

Evidence shall be:

- Collected in the appropriate manner
- Container shall be sealed properly
- Relevant
- Documented

Logs and sketches shall include:

- Date
- Location
- Name of person who created sketch
- List the locations as they correspond to the evidence collected
- Signatures of all individuals involved in the chain of custody